

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 MCT-01 /085 W
-----071502 120230Z /70

R 111442Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3765
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SW, UR
SUBJECT: AGAPOV AFFAIRS PROSPECTS BLEAK FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION

REF: STOCKHOLM 1458

1. THE WELL-PUBLICIZED AGAPOV FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASE CONTINUES TO OCCUPY THE SWEDISH MEDIA. PRESS REPORTED ON MAY 5 THAT LUDMILLA AGAPOVA HAD RECENTLY DISCUSSED HER CASE WITH US EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN MOSCOW, TOGETHER WITH IRINA MCCLELLAN, AND NOW BELIEVES SHE WILL RECEIVE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE. MRS. AGAPOVA REPORTEDLY PHONED HER HUSBAND, VALENTIN, LAST WEEK AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE US WILL NOW JOIN THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT IN EXERTING PRESSURE ON SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO AGREE TO HER DEPARTURE. MRS. AGAPOVA ALSO APPARENTLY INDICATED THAT EMBASSY MOSCOW HAD ARRANGED A MEETING FOR HER WITH LEADING BRITISH PSYCHIATRIST VISITING MOSCOW "WHO HAD DECLARED HER TO BE PERFECTLY SANE."

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2. ON MAY 9, AFTONBLADET CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH ONE ALEKSANDER KURPEL, 21, REPORTEDLY A VERY CLOSE FRIEND OF MRS. AGAPOVA, AND RECENTLY (APRIL 21) EXPELLED FROM THE USSR AS A "PARASITE AND ENEMY OF THE SOVIET UNION." KURPEL IS TRANSITING SWEDEN EN ROUTE TO CANADA WHERE HE HE HOPES TO RESIDE PERMANENTLY. IN THE INTERVIEW, KURPEL

DESCRIBES IN SOME DETAIL THE CONSTANT KGB HARRASSMENT AND GROSS INDIGNITIES BEING SUFFERED BY AGAPOVA, HER DAUGHTER AND MOTHER-IN-LAW, AND THE THREATS TO THEIR HEALTH AND LIVES. KURPEL CONCLUDES THAT IN HIS VIEW AGAPOVA WILL NEVER BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION, "THERE IS NO MORE HOPE FOR THE AGAPOVA FAMILY."

3. COMMENT: MFA OFFICER WHO ACCOMPANIED MFA SECGEN LEIF LEIFLAND DURING LATTER'S MEETINGS WITH ZEMSKOV IN MOSCOW EARLIER THIS MONTH CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT LEIFLAND PRESSED AGAPOVA AND HALF-DOZEN OTHER FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES HARD IN THEIR MEETINGS. OFFICER SAID NEGATIVE, IRRITATED RESPONSES OF SOVIET OFFICIALS LED HIM TO CONCLUSION THAT SOVIETS ARE MOST UNLIKELY TO RELEASE AGAPOV FAMILY IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. HE SAID THAT, IN FACT, THERE SEEMED NO PROSPECT OF SOVIET "GIVE" ON ANY OF THE PENDING CASES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GIVEN MEDIA PLAY AND OBVIOUS HIGH-LEVEL GOS INTEREST, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BACKGROUND OF ANY EMBASSY MOSCOW CONNECTION WITH AGAPOVA CASE.
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